GT 6-19-95

CITY/REGION

PrideFest takes a break from politics

Gays, lesbians focus on fun this year

By **Rosemary Harris**
Gazette Telegraph

Children played hide-and-seek on the lawn. Singers crooned spirituals and folk songs. There were vendors hawking T-shirts and even a carnival-like pie-throwing game.

All-in-all, this year's PrideFest rally for gays, lesbians and their supporters was just a typical day in Acacia Park — in contrast to years past when participants voiced their grievances over such issues as Amendment 2.

There was no official crowd estimate, but the number of attendees at the parade and rally was considerably fewer than last year's estimated 5,000, organizers said.

"It's been a fairly quiet and calm year for this community," said PrideFest organizer Stan Wright. "So I think it would follow that this would be more of just a family kind of celebration than anything else. We're still hurting over what we've gone through in the last few years. But we're not angry anymore.

"We're much more mellow. And much more confident."

A Fort Carson soldier said he was so confident in his identity as a female impersonator that he came to the event for the first time — and even dressed in a sequined mini and pumps for the occasion.

"I feel I have less to fear about who I am," said the soldier, who did not want to give his name. "But I'm still not stupid enough to jump all the way out of the closet. I still wear a uniform."

Katrina Sosh and Dana Kukoy brought their respective nieces and nephews to enjoy the clear skies and a picnic lunch of sausages, cheeses, crackers and Kool-Aid. They said they had considered bringing the children last year but didn't want them to see demonstrations by either side of the gay rights debate.

"Everybody was holding a sign in the last two years," said Sosh, a Woodland Park dressmaker. "I wanted the children to see that being gay isn't always about carrying a placard. Most of the time it's about normal life; about packing a lunch and enjoying a day with your family and friends."

There were no demonstrators or strident gay rights speeches, either. But Franklin Whitworth, executive director of Ground Zero, the gay rights lobby, and recent recipient of the Stonewall Award for his activism in Colorado gay rights causes, said this might just be the calm before the storm.

Later this year, he said, activists will step up efforts to ban job discrimination based on sexual orientation, repeal Amendment 2 and secure state recognition of gay marriages.

But PrideFest wasn't for politics.

"Everybody is happy and enjoying themselves today," said Whitworth. "That's great. We deserve to have a fun, family get-together every once in a while like everybody else does."

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GAZETTE TELEGRAPH

COMMENTARY

A woman's fight to escape cycle of spousal abuse

Her story was less about love than need. In the beginning, she was more afraid of being alone than she was of him.

"I was a newly separated woman with two small kids," she says, explaining how it all started. "And I was scared."

Ultimately, this is a story about domestic violence, a subject about which we heard so much about a year ago after O.J. Simpson was charged in the killings of his former

STATE

His 'Rush' to judg

Suit puts show's name in the air

By **Angela Dire**
Gazette Telegraph

BOULDER — Pardon Aaron Harber.

But the last time he checked the dictionary, there were several definitions for the word "rush."

"To go swiftly or impetuously."

"To dash recklessly or rashly."

"To make a swift sudden attack

tempted to name his upstart show "After the Rush" and market it to stations for air time immediately after Limbaugh's show.

Before Harber's show even made it on the air, Limbaugh's lawyers slapped him with a $20 million trademark-infringement lawsuit in federal court.

U.S. District Judge Richard

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